

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 983 705 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:

28.04.2004 Bulletin 2004/18

(21) Application number: **98921298.0**

(22) Date of filing: **19.05.1998**

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04Q 7/36**

(86) International application number:
PCT/CA1998/000472

(87) International publication number:
WO 1998/053618 (26.11.1998 Gazette 1998/47)

(54) **ENHANCED CELLULAR LAYOUT FOR CDMA NETWORKS HAVING SIX-SECTORED CELLS**

VERBESSERTE ZELLULARE ANORDNUNG FÜR CDMA NETZWERKE MIT SECHSFACH
SEKTORISIERTEN ZELLEN

COUCHE CELLULAIRE AMELIOREE POUR RESEAUX AMRC COMPRENANT DES CELLULES A
SIX SECTEURS

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

(30) Priority: **20.05.1997 US 859197**

(43) Date of publication of application:
08.03.2000 Bulletin 2000/10

(73) Proprietor: **Nortel Networks Limited**
St. Laurent, Quebec H4S 2A9 (CA)

(72) Inventors:
• **CHHEDA, Ashvin**
Plano Texas 75025 (US)

• **BASSIRAT, Farhad**
Plano, TX 75023 (US)

(74) Representative: **Free, Rachel Alder et al**
Sommerville & Rushton,
Business Link Building,
45 Grosvenor Road
St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3AW (GB)

(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 429 200 **EP-A- 0 435 283**
WO-A-96/07108 **GB-A- 2 271 246**
US-A- 4 144 496

EP 0 983 705 B1

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description**Technical Field**

5 **[0001]** The invention relates generally to cellular layouts for CDMA cellular wireless communication networks and, more particularly, to an enhanced cellular layout for CDMA cellular wireless communication networks comprising six-sectored cells.

Background of the Invention

10 **[0002]** In cellular wireless communication networks, or "cellular networks," a served area is divided into cells. Each cell is further divided into sectors, except in the case of omni-directional cells, in which the entire cell comprises a single sector. Each cell is served by at least one base station located at a cell site typically at the center of the cell. All of the base stations are connected to a message switching center ("MSC") via a base station controller ("BSC") and hardware links. A plurality of mobile units are connected to the MSC by establishing radio links with one or more nearby base stations.

15 **[0003]** In other cellular telephone technologies, such as time division multiple access ("TDMA"), as a mobile unit travels from one cell to another, the radio link between the mobile unit and the base station serving the first cell has to be broken and then replaced by a radio link between the mobile unit and the base station serving the second cell. In contrast, in a code division multiple access ("CDMA") cellular telephone system, because the same frequency band is used for all cells and sectors, the first link need not be broken before connecting with the second link. As described in greater detail below, this process is referred to as a "soft handoff" or "softer handoff." The CDMA waveform properties that provide processing gain are also used to discriminate between signals that occupy the same frequency band. A mobile unit thus need not switch frequencies when a call is transferred from one cell or sector to another. Additional details regarding the specifics of the CDMA cellular telephone environment are described in TIA/EIA/IS-95-A, *Mobile Station-Base Station Compatibility Standard for Dual-Mode Wideband Spread Spectrum Cellular System* (hereinafter "CDMA Standard").

20 **[0004]** In the context of a cellular telephone system, "handoff" is the process of handing over a call from one sector to another when a mobile unit detects that acceptable communication with the other sector is possible. This occurs mainly when the mobile unit nears a sector boundary or the current communication link is weakened by radio frequency ("RF") shadowing and another potential communication path from another sector is enhanced. In general, handoff consists of three phases. During the first phase, referred to as "handoff initiation," the handoff process is triggered. During the second phase, referred to as "target selection," a determination is made which sectors are candidates for receiving the handoff. During the third and final phase, referred to as "handoff completion," the mobile unit is transferred from the old sector to the new sector.

25 **[0005]** The term "soft handoff" is commonly used to refer to a handoff in which the mobile unit commences communication with a new base station without interrupting communications with the old base station, i.e., the call is maintained on both base stations. If there are three cells involved in the handoff, the call will be maintained by all three base stations. A "softer handoff" refers to a handoff in which the call is maintained on one base station for different sectors of the same cell. It will be recognized by those skilled in the art that, for various reasons, softer handoff typically requires less transmit power than soft handoff on both the forward (i.e., base station-to-mobile unit) and reverse (i.e., mobile unit-to-base station) links.

30 **[0006]** In order to optimize the performance of a CDMA network, a number of factors must be considered. Arguably, the most important of these are network capacity, that is, the number of calls that can be handled by the network at a given time, and drop call probability, that is, the probability that a call will be dropped during active communication, as well as the relevant interaction of the foregoing factors with network resources, such as transmit power, handoff, and others. Clearly, it is desirable to maximize capacity while minimizing drop call probability.

35 **[0007]** In CDMA, capacity is soft, i.e., the number of users can be increased; however, as the number of users increases, service is degraded. Capacity of a CDMA system can be increased by minimizing handoff and minimizing the average forward link power required to sustain adequate communication between the mobile unit and the base station. Clearly, however, minimization of these parameters typically increases frame error rates ("FERs") and increases the probability of a call being dropped.

40 **[0008]** There are a number of methods for increasing the capacity of a CDMA network in areas in which there is a high demand for service. For example, an additional channel could be added; however, even assuming that additional frequency is available, which may not always be the case, this solution is an expensive one for the service provider. Alternatively, a large number of small cells could be deployed. This, too, is an expensive solution, as the service provider must purchase the equipment necessary for implementing base stations at each cell site in addition to the real estate on which the base stations are located.

[0009] Yet another method of maximizing the capacity of a CDMA network is to maximize the capacity of each cell thereof by increasing the number of sectors comprising that cell. For example, the capacity of an omni-directional (i. e., single-sectored) cell is X calls. In contrast, the capacity of a three-sectored cell is estimated to be approximately 2.6X, while the capacity of a six-sectored cell is estimated to be approximately 4.8X. In heavy traffic areas of a CDMA network, it is often more cost effective to use one or two sectorized cells instead of a number of smaller, omni-directional cells to provide the necessary amount of coverage.

[0010] The reverse link capacity of a CDMA cell/sector may be estimated using the following equation:

$$N=(W/R)*(1/(E_b/N_o))*(1/v)*F*G$$

where: N=the number of users per sector;

W=spread spectrum bandwidth;

R=data rate;

E_b/N_o =bit energy/noise spectral density;

v=voice duty cycle;

F=frequency reuse factor; and

G=antenna sectorization gain.

[0011] As illustrated by the foregoing equation, an important factor to be considered is referred to as the frequency reuse factor. Frequency reuse factor is the ratio of interference from mobile units within a sector to the total interference from all sectors and is calculated using the following equation:

$$F=N_{ic}/(N_{ic}+N_{oc})$$

where F is the reverse link frequency reuse factor, N_{ic} is the in-cell/sector interference, and N_{oc} is out-of-cell/sector interference. Clearly, as N_{oc} approaches zero, F approaches one; therefore, the goal is to minimize N_{oc} , thereby to maximize F.

[0012] The capacity of a network can also be increased through the use of directional antennas at the cell sites. A directional antenna reduces the interference seen at the base station because it only receives in the direction of the antenna. In fact, if there were no side- or back-lobes in the directional antenna, the total interference observed by a sector from other sectors would be reduced by a third. Clearly, sectorization through use of directional antennas increases the number of users, it reduces the frequency reuse factor because of the side- and back-lobes of a directional antenna. Hence, as F is marginally reduced during sectorization, G is increased, translating into an overall increase in capacity. Other factors that play an important role in reducing the frequency reuse factor of a network include a uniform, as opposed to haphazard, cellular layout, antenna beamwidth, side- and back-lobe leakage, and whether the antennas are uniform (i.e., all 60° as opposed to some 60° and some 90°).

[0013] Fig. 1 illustrates a three-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network. In Fig. 1, inter-cell boundaries are represented by solid lines, while inter-sector boundaries are represented by dashed lines. Sectors are represented in Fig. 1 by unit hexagons. Table I below sets forth estimates of the frequency reuse factor and frequency reuse factor ratio for a three-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network as shown in Fig. 1 for various antenna beamwidths, where "frequency reuse factor ratio" is calculated by dividing the frequency reuse factor of the illustrated embodiment by that of a CDMA network comprising omni-directional cells (typically 0.62):

Table I

Antenna 3dB Beamwidth	Frequency Reuse Factor	Frequency Reuse Factor Ratio
60	0.604	0.974
70	0.591	0.953
80	0.573	0.924
90	0.556	0.897
100	0.536	0.865
110	0.515	0.831
120	0.492	0.794

[0014] The sectorization of cells into six sectors is well known and at present, there are at least two known cellular layouts for six-sectored cells, including a parallelogram cellular layout, as shown in Fig. 2, and a much less common triangular cellular layout, as shown in Fig. 3. As in Fig. 1, in Figs. 2 and 3, inter-cell boundaries are represented by solid lines, while inter-sector boundaries are represented by dashed lines.

[0015] Table II below sets forth estimates of the frequency reuse factor and frequency reuse factor ratio for a parallelogram cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network as shown in Fig. 2 for various antenna beamwidths, where "frequency reuse factor ratio" is calculated by dividing the frequency reuse factor of the illustrated embodiment by that of a CDMA network comprising omni-directional cells (typically 0.62):

Table II

Antenna 3dB Beamwidth	Frequency Reuse Factor	Frequency Reuse Factor Ratio
30	0.550	0.887
40	0.523	0.844
50	0.481	0.776
60	0.442	0.713

[0016] Finally, Table III below sets forth estimates of the frequency reuse factor and frequency reuse factor ratio for a triangular cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network as shown in Fig. 3 for various antenna beamwidths, where "frequency reuse factor ratio" is calculated by dividing the frequency reuse factor of the illustrated embodiment by that of a CDMA network comprising omni-directional cells (typically 0.62):

Table III

Antenna 3dB Beamwidth	Frequency Reuse Factor	Frequency Reuse Factor Ratio
30	0.565	0.911
40	0.539	0.869
50	0.499	0.805
60	0.456	0.735

[0017] As can be seen with reference to Tables II and III above, the manner in which sectors are laid out affects the frequency reuse factor of a CDMA network, thereby ultimately affecting its capacity. For example, for an antenna beamwidth of 30°, the frequency reuse factor and frequency reuse factor ratio for a sector in the CDMA network shown in Fig. 2 are, respectively, 0.550 and 0.887, while the same parameters for a sector in the CDMA network shown in Fig. 3 are, respectively, 0.565 and 0.911. In terms of frequency reuse factor and capacity, the triangular cellular layout is more optimal than the parallelogram cellular layout.

[0018] Referring to Fig. 2, in the parallelogram cellular layout, it will be recognized that each point X is equidistant from three base stations; therefore, it is highly likely that at each point X, there will be no single dominant sector. Instead, there will be six sectors of approximately equal strength (or weakness) and a mobile unit located at a point X will necessarily be in a higher (e.g., four-, five-, or six-way) handoff state. Due to the lack of a single dominant sector, the strengths of each sector are lower; consequentially, performance is degraded. In Fig. 3, in the triangular cellular layout, at each point Y there are four sectors of approximately equal strength. This is an improvement over the parallelogram cellular layout, but still not optimal.

[0019] It will be recognized by those skilled in the art that forward link capacity of a CDMA network is directly affected by handoff state, in that a higher handoff state consumes greater resources. In addition, higher handoff states are due to higher out-of-cell signal power, which means that if there is excessive signal interference on the forward link, then capacity is sacrificed and greater forward link transmit power is required to sustain communications between the mobile unit and the base station.

[0020] As used herein, unless otherwise specifically designated as "forward link" or "reverse link," "capacity" refers to the overall capacity (i.e., number of calls that can be serviced at one time) of a network.

[0021] Other parameters that are desirable to optimize are the average forward link and reverse link transmit powers required per user, as well as the forward link and reverse link frame error rates ("FERs"), all of which are affected by interference and can be improved by reducing the interference seen by a call.

[0022] As evidenced by the above, the particular arrangement of the sectors within a six-sectored cell CDMA network will affect the performance of the network.

[0023] Accordingly, what is needed is an improved cellular layout for CDMA networks having six-sectored cells that optimizes the capacity of the CDMA network.

[0024] EP-A-429200 discloses a network of transmitters for providing broadcast signal coverage of a group of contiguous reception areas with two or more directional transmit antennas at each site enabling coverage of the reception area by the use of different frequencies or polarization. The orientation of antennas at adjacent sites is arranged in a particular way to reduce interference. Part of the arrangement is to deviate successive transmitters on a particular line in opposite directions from a reference orientation.

[0025] US-A-4144496 discloses a network for two-way radio communication between fixed stations and mobile units. Omnidirectional and directional antennas are used to sectionalise a geographical service area. This permits frequency re-use. An example is given of an analogue mobile telephone system having twelve channels. The network uses dynamic switching between the channels and is concerned largely with how handover may be carried out between sectors at the overlap between sectors from different base stations.

[0026] WO-A-96/07108 discloses a communications system including a plurality of base sites which may, for example, provide CDMA transmission and reception. The base sites are sectorised to allow frequency re-use.

Summary of the Invention

[0027] The present invention, accordingly, provides a system and method for optimizing the capacity of a CDMA network. In a preferred embodiment, an enhanced cellular layout for six-sectored CDMA networks is accomplished either by rotating directional antennas located at each cell site of a triangular cellular layout of a six-sectored CDMA network (Fig. 3) clockwise or counterclockwise by approximately $10.893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ or by rotating directional antennas located at each cell site of a parallelogram cellular layout of a six-sectored CDMA network (Fig. 2) clockwise or counterclockwise by approximately $19.107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

[0028] It has been determined that the enhanced cellular layout for six-sectored CDMA networks results in several advantages over prior art six-sector cellular layouts. In particular, comparing the enhanced cellular layout of the present invention with prior art cellular layouts under similar conditions, e.g., cell sites separated by the same distance, equal base station maximum power outputs, and equal RF conditions, the enhanced cellular layout of the present invention results in an increased frequency reuse factor, increased capacity and reduced drop call probability. The reduction in call drop probability is mainly due to the ease with which the mobile unit can go in and out of handoff. Additional benefits include a reduction in the average forward link and reverse link transmit power required per user and a reduction in the forward link and reverse link frame error rates ("FERs").

[0029] Perhaps one of the most important features of the enhanced cellular layout of the present invention is that the average power requirement by a mobile unit to sustain adequate communication will be smaller, as no two sectors are directly facing each other; consequently the average level of interference is less, thereby increasing the frequency reuse factor of the network.

[0030] A technical advantage achieved with the present invention is that it increases the frequency reuse factor and capacity and reduces the call drop probability of a six-sectored CDMA network.

[0031] Another technical advantage achieved with the present invention is that it reduces the average power required by a mobile unit to sustain adequate communication by ensuring that no two sectors are directly facing each other, thereby reducing the average level of interference.

[0032] Another technical advantage achieved with the present invention is that it results in more users being able to use the network and increases the reliability of the network.

[0033] Still another technical advantage achieved with the present invention is that there is a better balance among two- and three-way soft and softer handoff than with other cellular layouts.

[0034] Still another technical advantage achieved with the present invention is that it decreases the time that a mobile unit is in a higher (e.g., four-way, five-way, and six-way) handoff state.

[0035] Still another technical advantage achieved with the present invention is that it results in improvements to average forward link and reverse link transmit power, as well as forward link and reverse link FERs.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0036]

Fig. 1 illustrates a CDMA network comprising three-sectored cells.

Fig. 2 illustrates a parallelogram cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network.

Fig. 3 illustrates a triangular cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network.

Figure 4 is a system block diagram of a CDMA network embodying features of the present invention.

Fig. 5 illustrates an enhanced cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network in accordance

with features of the present invention.

Fig. 6 illustrates a direct comparison of the cellular layouts shown in Figs. 2 and 5.

Fig. 7 illustrates the relative placement of cell sites in a typical CDMA network.

Fig. 8 illustrates antenna directivity for the cellular layout shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 9 illustrates antenna directivity for the cellular layout shown in Fig. 5.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

[0037] Fig. 1 illustrates a CDMA network comprising three-sectored cells, as described above. Fig. 2 illustrates a parallelogram cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network, as described above. Fig. 3 illustrates a triangular cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network, as described above.

[0038] In Figure 4, a CDMA network is designated generally by a reference numeral 10. In a preferred embodiment, the system 10 is comprised of a plurality of cells, represented in Figure 4 by cells C1 and C2. In accordance with features of the present invention, each of the cells C1, C2, is divided into six sectors, S11-S16, and S21-S26, respectively, as described in greater detail with reference to Fig. 5, through use of a directional antennas at the cell site of each cell C1, C2. Each cell C1, C2, comprises a base station B1, B2, including at least six directional antennas, respectively, located at a cell site thereof, the primary function of which is to provide over-the-air radio frequency ("RF") communication with mobile units, such as a mobile unit 12.

[0039] Each base station B1, B2, is further connected via a link to a base station controller ("BSC") 18, which is connected to a mobile switching center ("MSC") 22. As the elements comprising the system 10, as well as the configuration thereof, are well known in the art, the details thereof will not be further described, except as necessary to impart a complete understanding of the present invention.

[0040] Fig. 5 illustrates an enhanced cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network in accordance with features of the present invention. As in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, in Fig. 5, inter-cell boundaries are represented by solid lines, while inter-sector boundaries are represented by dashed lines. As will be described in greater detail below, the cellular layout shown in Fig. 5 is best accomplished either by rotating each directional antenna of a triangular cellular layout of a six-sectored CDMA network (Fig. 3) clockwise or counterclockwise by approximately $10.893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ or by rotating each directional antenna of a typical parallelogram cellular layout of a six-sectored CDMA network (Fig. 2) clockwise or counterclockwise by approximately $19.107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

[0041] Fig. 6 illustrates a direct comparison of the cellular layouts of Figs. 2 and 5. In Fig. 6, cells oriented according to the enhanced cellular layout shown in Fig. 5, including inter-sector boundaries thereof, are represented by dashed lines, while cells oriented according to the parallelogram cellular layout shown in Fig. 2, including inter-sector boundaries thereof, are represented by solid lines.

[0042] Referring now to Figs. 7-9, the enhanced cellular layout of the present invention will be further described. Fig. 7 illustrates relative placement of cell sites and corresponding directional antennas in a typical CDMA network. Referring now to Fig. 7, a conventional cell site layout will be described with reference to a cell site CS1, which is defined as the origin (0, 0) of an x, y plane. Six cell sites, CS2-CS7, are positioned around the cell site CS1 at the following coordinate pairs:

$$(2\sqrt{3}z, 3z), (2.5\sqrt{3}z, -1.5z), ((\sqrt{3}/2)z, -4.5z), (-2\sqrt{3}z, -3z), (-2.5\sqrt{3}z, 1.5z), (-(\sqrt{3}/2)z, 4.5z)$$

respectively, where z is equal to one unit of distance and the distance between cell site CS1 and any of the other cell sites CS2-CS7, respectively, is:

$$z\sqrt{21}$$

it being recognized that at least six directional antennas are located at each cell site CS1-CS7 to create six sectors.

[0043] Referring now to Fig. 8, it will be recognized by those skilled in the art that the parallelogram cellular layout shown in Fig. 2 is accomplished as follows. For each cell site, such as the cell site CS1, the directional antennas thereof are directed toward each of six surrounding cell sites CS2-CS7, as represented in Fig. 8 by arrows labeled A. Accordingly, each cell site has antennas directed to each of its six neighboring cell sites and has antennas from six different cell sites directed toward it.

[0044] Fig. 9 illustrates antenna directivity for the enhanced cellular layout of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 9, rather than being directed directly toward the neighboring cell sites CS2-CS7, as shown in Fig. 8, the antennas of the cell site CS1 are directed such that they make an angle β with an imaginary line between the cell site CS1 and each of the cell sites CS2-CS7, as represented in Fig. 9 by arrows labeled D. Analysis and simulations have shown

that the ideal value of β is 19.107° , although as a practical matter, it would be desirable to position the antennas within $\pm 3^\circ$ of that value.

[0045] Table IV below sets forth estimates of the frequency reuse factor and frequency reuse factor ratio for the enhanced cellular layout of a six-sectored cell embodiment of a CDMA network as shown in Fig. 5 for various antenna beamwidths, where "frequency reuse factor ratio" is calculated by dividing the frequency reuse factor of the illustrated embodiment by that of a CDMA network comprising omni-directional cells (typically 0.62):

Table IV

Antenna 3dB Beamwidth	Frequency Reuse Factor	Frequency Reuse Factor Ratio
30	0.580	0.935
40	0.545	0.879
50	0.500	0.806
60	0.453	0.731

[0046] Comparing the performance of the enhanced cellular layout, as shown in Table IV, with that of the parallelogram and triangular cellular layouts, as shown in Tables II and III above, respectively, it will be recognized that the enhanced cellular layout results in a better frequency reuse factor and frequency reuse factor ratio, and thus, higher capacity, than either of the other cellular layouts. For example, for an antenna beamwidth of 30° , the frequency reuse factor for a sector in a CDMA network employing the enhanced cellular layout is 0.580, as compared to 0.550 for a sector in a CDMA network employing a parallelogram cellular layout and 0.565 for a sector in a CDMA network employing a triangular cellular layout. Similarly, for the same antenna beamwidth, the capacity of a sector in a CDMA network is than that of a CDMA network employing either the parallelogram cellular layout or the triangular cellular layout due to several factors, including: (1) a higher frequency reuse factor; (2) better handoff distribution; (3) improved forward link performance; and (4) improved reverse link performance.

[0047] Referring to Fig. 2, in the parallelogram cellular layout, it will be recognized that each point X is equidistant from three base stations; therefore, it is highly likely that at each point X, there will be no single dominant sector. Instead, there will be six sectors of approximately equal strength (or weakness) and a mobile unit located at a point X will necessarily be in a higher (e.g., four-, five-, or six-way) handoff state. Due to the lack of a single dominant sector, the strengths of each sector are lower; consequently, performance is degraded. In Fig. 3, in the triangular cellular layout, at each point Y there are four sectors of approximately equal strength. This is an improvement over the parallelogram cellular layout, but still not optimal.

[0048] Referring now to Fig. 5, it will be noted that in the enhanced cellular layout, due to its unique structure, points similar to points X and Y exist; however, at each point Z, there are only three sectors of comparable strength, rather than six (parallelogram cellular layout) or four (triangular cellular layout). Therefore, the state of handoff is lower (i.e., two- or three-way as compared to four-, five-, or six-way), meaning more resources are available at each point Z than at points X or Y, and the strength of each of the three equal sectors is low, but not so low as to degrade performance.

[0049] As previously noted, avoiding higher handoff states is important because higher handoff states consume greater resources and result in reduced forward link capacity. In addition, the reduction in interference enabled by the enhanced cellular layout reduces the forward link transmit power required to sustain communications between a mobile unit and a base station.

[0050] Clearly, on all counts (frequency reuse factor, capacity, and handoff state) the enhanced cellular layout is superior to either the parallelogram cellular layout or the triangular cellular layout.

[0051] For example, the average forward link transmit power required per user for the enhanced cellular layout under certain conditions, i.e., speed of 72km/hour, rayleigh fading, 1 multipath per sector, has been estimated to be approximately 7.5% of total available power. In contrast, average forward link transmit power required per user for the parallelogram cellular layout under similar conditions has been estimated to be approximately 8.0% of total available power. Moreover, under identical conditions, the forward link FER for the enhanced cellular layout has been estimated to be approximately 1% with power control employed to restrict FER to 1%. In contrast, under identical conditions, the forward link FER for the enhanced cellular layout has been estimated to be approximately 1.5% with power control employed to restrict FER to 1%.

[0052] Although an illustrative embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, other modifications, changes, and substitutions are intended in the foregoing disclosure. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A code division multiple access ("CDMA") network comprising a plurality of six-sectored cells each having at least one directional antenna located at a cell site (CS) thereof, **characterised in that** for each of said six-sectored cells, each said at least one directional antenna thereof is oriented such that a line (D) bisecting a corresponding one of said sectors of said six-sectored cell forms an angle β with a line between said cell site of said six-sectored cell and said cell site of an adjacent one of said six-sectored cells, wherein said angle β is selected from a range of angles consisting of $19.107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.
2. The CDMA network of claim 1 wherein said cell site comprises at least six directional antennas.
3. A code division multiple access ("CDMA") network comprising a plurality of six-sectored cells each having at least one directional antenna, **characterised by** said CDMA network being created by rotating each said directional antenna an amount β with reference to a corresponding antenna oriented for creating a parallelogram CDMA network cellular layout, wherein each directional antenna is rotated in a same direction and wherein β is selected from a range of angles consisting of $19.107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.
4. The CDMA network of claim 3 wherein said rotating is performed in a clockwise direction.
5. The CDMA network of claim 3 wherein said rotating is performed in a counterclockwise direction.
6. The CDMA network of claim 3 wherein said at least one bidirectional antenna comprises at least six directional antennas.
7. A code division multiple access ("CDMA") network comprising a plurality of six-sectored cells each having at least one directional antenna, **characterised by** said CDMA network being created by rotating each said directional antenna an amount β with reference to a corresponding antenna oriented for creating a triangular CDMA network cellular layout, wherein each directional antenna is rotated in a same direction and wherein β is selected from a range of angles consisting of $10.893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.
8. The CDMA network of claim 7 wherein said rotating is performed in a clockwise direction.
9. The CDMA network of claim 7 wherein said rotating is performed in a counterclockwise direction.
10. The CDMA network of claim 7 wherein said at least one directional antenna comprises at least six directional antennas.
11. A method of creating a cellular communication network comprising at least one cell **characterised by**:
 - providing at least six directional antennas at each cell site (CS),
 - orienting each said directional antenna such that a cellular layout of said cellular communication network is a parallelogram cellular layout; and
 - rotating each said directional antenna at each cell site in a first direction a first predetermined amount (β),
 - wherein said first predetermined amount is selected from a range of angles consisting of $19.017^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein said first direction is clockwise.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein said first direction is counterclockwise.
14. The method of claim 11 wherein said cellular communication network is a code division multiple access ("CDMA") network.
15. The method of claim 11 wherein each said at least one cell comprises six sectors.
16. A method of creating a cellular communication network comprising at least one cell **characterised by**:
 - providing at least six directional antennas at each cell site (CS),

orienting each said directional antenna such that a cellular layout of said cellular communication network is a triangular cellular layout; and
rotating each said directional antenna at each cell site in a first direction a first predetermined amount (β),

wherein said first predetermined amount is selected from a range of angles consisting of $10.893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said first direction is clockwise.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said first direction is counterclockwise.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein said cellular communication network is a code division multiple access ("CDMA") network.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein each said at least one cell comprises six sectors.

Patentansprüche

1. Codemultiplex-Vielfachzugriff- ("CDMA"-) Netz mit einer Vielzahl von sechs Sektoren aufweisenden Zellen, die jeweils zumindest eine Richtantenne aufweisen, die sich an einem Zellenstandort (CS) hiervon befindet, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** für jede der sechs Sektoren aufweisenden Zellen jede der zumindest einen Richtantenne hiervon derart ausgerichtet ist, dass eine Linie D, die eine Winkelhalbierende eines entsprechenden der Sektoren der sechs Sektoren aufweisenden Zellen ist, einen Winkel β mit einer Linie zwischen dem Zellenstandort der sechs Sektoren aufweisenden Zelle und dem Zellenstandort einer benachbarten einen der sechs Sektoren aufweisenden Zellen bildet, wobei der Winkel β aus einem Bereich von Winkeln ausgewählt ist, der aus $19,107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ besteht.

2. CDMA-Netz nach Figur 1, bei dem der Zellenstandort zumindest sechs Richtantennen umfasst.

3. Codemultiplex-Vielfachzugriff- ("CDMA"-) Netz mit einer Vielzahl von sechs Sektoren aufweisenden Zellen, die jeweils zumindest eine Richtantenne aufweisen, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das CDMA-Netz durch Drehen jeder der Richtantennen um einen Betrag β bezogen auf eine entsprechende Antenne geschaffen wird, die zur Erzeugung einer parallelogrammförmigen CDMA-Netz-Zellularkonfiguration ausgerichtet ist, wobei jede Richtantenne in der gleichen Richtung gedreht wird und wobei β aus einem Bereich von Winkeln ausgewählt ist, der aus $19,107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ besteht.

4. CDMA-Netz nach Anspruch 3, bei dem die Drehung im Uhrzeigersinn ausgeführt wird.

5. CDMA-Netz nach Anspruch 3, bei dem die Drehung in einer Gegenuhrzeigerrichtung ausgeführt wird.

6. CDMA-Netz nach Anspruch 3, bei dem die zumindest eine bidirektionale Antenne zumindest sechs Richtantennen umfasst.

7. Codemultiplex-Vielfachzugriff- ("CDMA"-) Netz mit einer Vielzahl von sechs Sektoren aufweisenden Zellen, die jeweils zumindest eine Richtantenne aufweisen, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das CDMA-Netz durch Drehen jeder der Richtantennen um einen Betrag β bezogen auf eine entsprechende Antenne geschaffen wird, die zur Schaffung einer dreieckförmigen CDMA-Netz-Zellularkonfiguration ausgerichtet ist, wobei jede Richtantenne in der gleichen Richtung gedreht wird und wobei β aus einem Bereich von Winkeln ausgewählt ist, der aus $10,893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ besteht.

8. CDMA-Netz nach Anspruch 7, bei dem die Drehung im Uhrzeigersinn ausgeführt wird.

9. CDMA-Netz nach Anspruch 7, bei der Drehung im Gegenuhrzeigersinn ausgeführt wird.

10. CDMA-Netz nach Anspruch 7, bei dem die zumindest eine Richtantenne zumindest sechs Richtantennen umfasst.

11. Verfahren zur Schaffung eines Zellularkommunikationsnetzes mit zumindest einer Zelle, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:**

zumindest sechs Richtantennen an jedem Zellenstandort (CS) bereitgestellt werden;
jede der Richtantennen so ausgerichtet wird, dass eine Zellularkonfiguration des Zellularkommunikationsnetzes eine parallelogrammförmige Zellularkonfiguration ist; und
jede Richtantenne an jedem Zellenstandort in einer Richtung um einen ersten vorgegebenen Betrag (β) gedreht wird;

wobei der vorgegebene Betrag aus einem Bereich von Winkeln ausgewählt ist, der $19,017^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ besteht.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei dem die erste Richtung im Uhrzeigersinn verläuft.

13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei dem die erste Richtung im Gegenuhrzeigersinn verläuft.

14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei dem das Zellularkommunikationsnetz ein Codemultiplex-Vielfachzugriffs- ("CDMA") Netz ist.

15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei dem jede der zumindest einen Zellen sechs Sektoren umfasst.

16. Verfahren zur Schaffung eines Zellularkommunikationsnetzes mit zumindest einer Zelle, **gekennzeichnet durch:**

Bereitstellen von zumindest sechs Richtantennen an jedem Zellenstandort (CS);
Ausrichten jeder Richtantenne derart, dass eine Zellularkonfiguration des Zellularkommunikationsnetzes eine dreieckförmige Zellularkonfiguration ist; und
Drehen jeder Richtantenne an jedem Zellenstandort in einer ersten Richtung um einen ersten vorgegebenen Betrag (β);

worin der erste vorgegebene Betrag aus einem Bereich von Winkeln ausgewählt ist, die aus $10,893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ besteht.

17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, bei dem die erste Richtung im Uhrzeigersinn verläuft.

18. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, bei dem die erste Richtung im Gegenuhrzeigersinn verläuft.

19. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, bei dem das Zellularkommunikationsnetz ein Codemultiplex-Vielfachzugriffs- ("CDMA") Netz ist.

20. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, bei dem jede genannte zumindest eine Zelle sechs Sektoren umfasst.

Revendications

1. Un réseau à accès multiple par répartition par code ("AMRC") comprenant une multiplicité de cellules à six secteurs ayant chacune au moins une antenne directionnelle placée à un site de cellule (CS) de la cellule considérée, **caractérisé en ce que** pour chacune des cellules à six secteurs, chacune de l'au moins une antenne directionnelle de la cellule est orientée de façon qu'une ligne (D) qui est une bissectrice de l'un correspondant des secteurs de la cellule à six secteurs forme un angle β avec une ligne s'étendant entre le site de cellule de ladite cellule à six secteurs et le site de cellule de l'une adjacente des cellules à six secteurs, cet angle β étant sélectionné dans une plage d'angles de $19,107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

2. Le réseau AMRC de la revendication 1, dans lequel le site de cellule comprend au moins six antennes directionnelles.

3. Un réseau à accès multiple par répartition par code ("AMRC") comprenant une multiplicité de cellules à six secteurs ayant chacune au moins une antenne directionnelle, **caractérisé en ce que** ce réseau AMRC est créé en faisant tourner chaque antenne directionnelle d'une quantité β par rapport à une antenne correspondante orientée pour créer une configuration cellulaire de réseau AMRC en parallélogramme, dans lequel chaque antenne directionnelle est tournée dans une même direction, et dans lequel β est sélectionnée dans une plage d'angles de $19,107^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

4. Le réseau AMRC de la revendication 3, dans lequel la rotation est effectuée dans le sens des aiguilles d'une montre.

5. Le réseau AMRC de la revendication 3, dans lequel la rotation est effectuée dans le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre.

6. Le réseau AMRC de la revendication 3, dans lequel l'au moins une antenne bidirectionnelle comprend au moins six antennes directionnelles.

7. Un réseau à accès multiple par répartition par code ("AMRC") comprenant une multiplicité de cellules à six secteurs ayant chacune au moins une antenne directionnelle, **caractérisé en ce que** ledit réseau AMRC est créé en faisant tourner chaque antenne directionnelle d'une quantité β par rapport à une antenne correspondante orientée pour créer une configuration cellulaire de réseau AMRC triangulaire, dans lequel chaque antenne directionnelle est tournée dans une même direction, et dans lequel β est sélectionnée dans une plage d'angles de $10,893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

8. Le réseau AMRC de la revendication 7, dans lequel la rotation est effectuée dans le sens des aiguilles d'une montre.

9. Le réseau AMRC de la revendication 7, dans lequel la rotation est effectuée dans le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre.

10. Le réseau AMRC de la revendication 7, dans lequel l'au moins une antenne directionnelle comprend au moins six antennes directionnelles.

11. Un procédé de création d'un réseau de communication cellulaire comprenant au moins une cellule, **caractérisé en ce que** :

on établit au moins six antennes directionnelles à chaque site de cellule (CS);
on oriente chaque antenne directionnelle de façon qu'une configuration cellulaire du réseau de communication cellulaire soit une configuration cellulaire en parallélogramme; et
on fait tourner chaque antenne directionnelle à chaque site de cellule d'une première quantité prédéterminée (β), dans une première direction;

dans lequel la première quantité prédéterminée est sélectionnée dans une plage d'angles de $19,017^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

12. Le procédé de la revendication 11, dans lequel la première direction est le sens des aiguilles d'une montre.

13. Le procédé de la revendication 11, dans lequel la première direction est le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre.

14. Le procédé de la revendication 11, dans lequel le réseau de communication cellulaire est un réseau à accès multiple par répartition par code ("AMRC").

15. Le procédé de la revendication 11, dans lequel chacune de l'au moins une cellule comprend six secteurs.

16. Un procédé de création d'un réseau de communication cellulaire comprenant au moins une cellule, **caractérisé en ce que** :

on établit au moins six antennes directionnelles à chaque site de cellule (CS);
on oriente chaque antenne directionnelle de façon qu'une configuration cellulaire du réseau de communication cellulaire soit une configuration cellulaire triangulaire; et
on fait tourner chaque antenne directionnelle à chaque site de cellule d'une première quantité prédéterminée (β), dans une première direction;

dans lequel la première quantité prédéterminée est sélectionnée dans une plage d'angles de $10,893^\circ \pm 3^\circ$.

17. Le procédé de la revendication 16, dans lequel la première direction est le sens des aiguilles d'une montre.

18. Le procédé de la revendication 16, dans lequel la première direction est le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre.

19. Le procédé de la revendication 16, dans lequel le réseau de communication cellulaire est un réseau à accès multiple par répartition par code ("AMRC").

20. Le procédé de la revendication 16, dans lequel chacune de l'au moins une cellule comprend six secteurs.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

Fig. 1
(PRIOR ART)

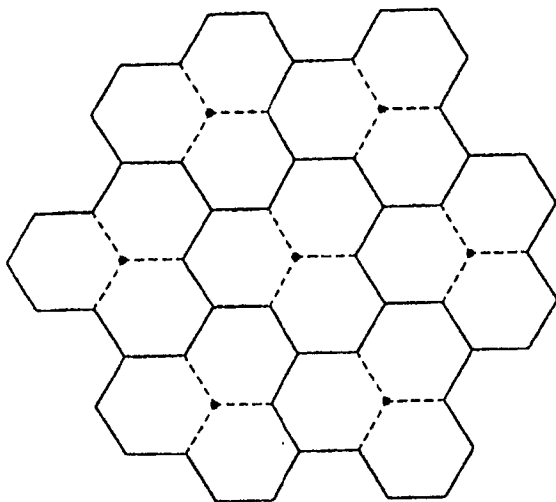


Fig. 2
(PRIOR ART)

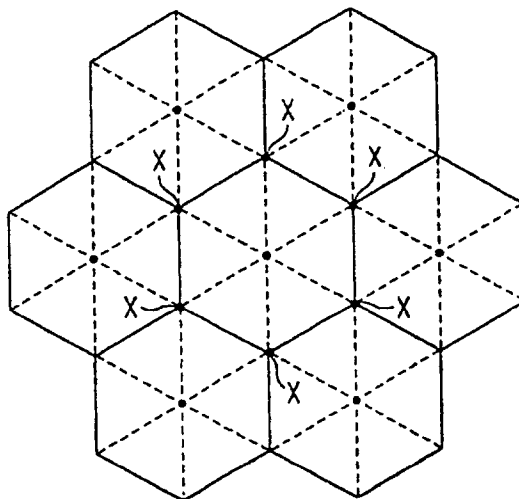


Fig. 3
(PRIOR ART)

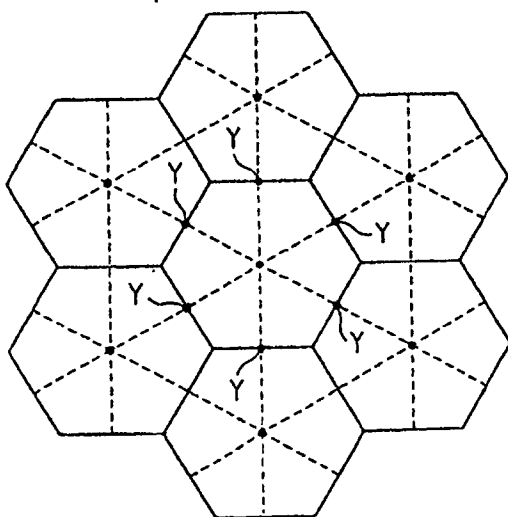
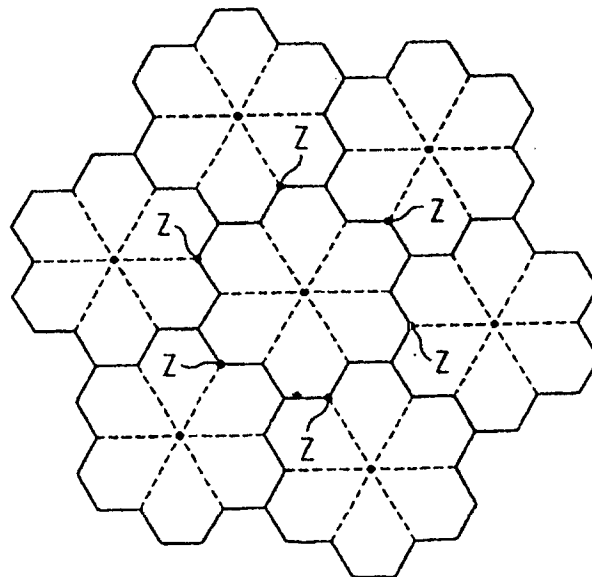


Fig. 5



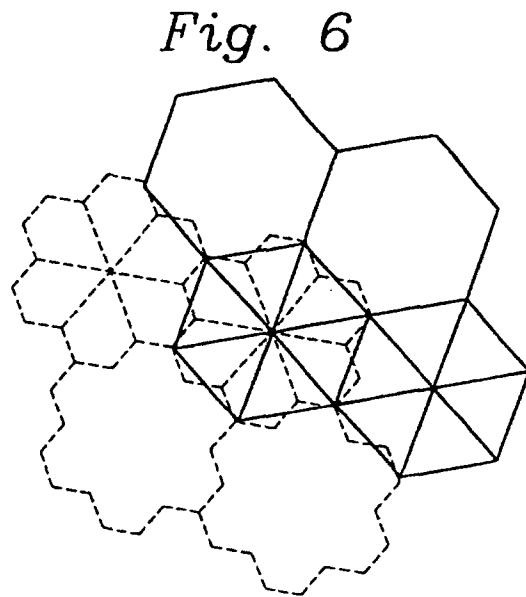
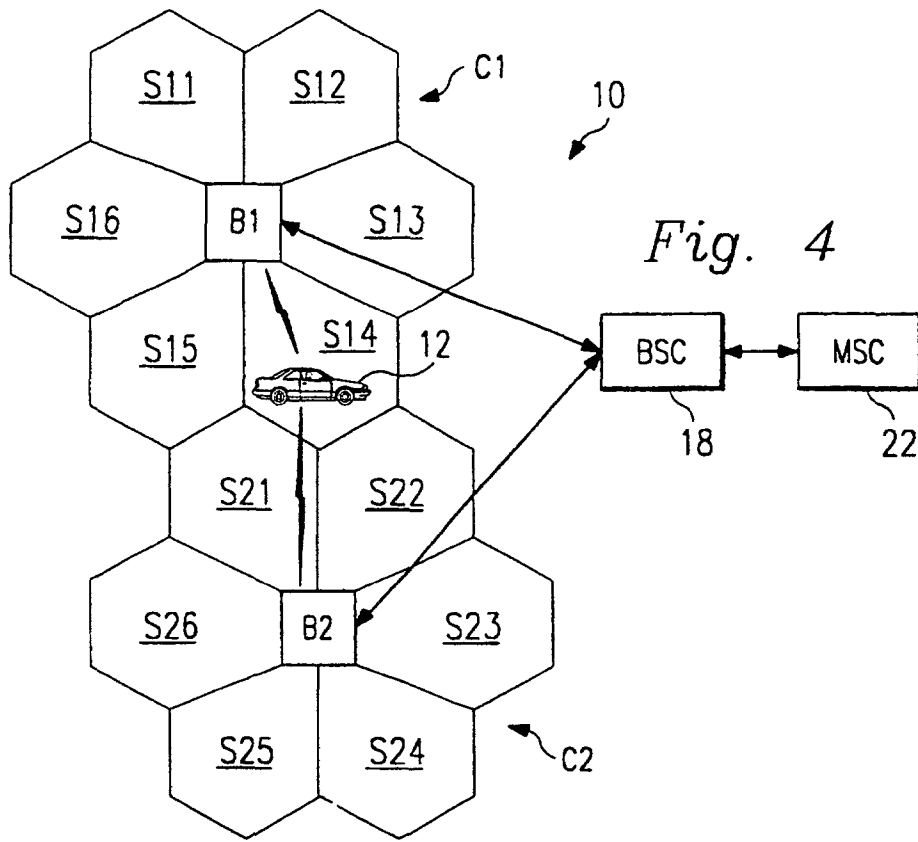


Fig. 7

